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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,499	06/14/2001	John W. Mason	56576.000	7773

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EXAMINER

NI, SUHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

12

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,499

Applicant(s)

MASON ET AL.

Examiner

Suhan Ni

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-11, 15-18 and 20-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-11, 15-18, 20-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 11. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment dated 11/11/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 2nd Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, it recites the limitation of "the entirety" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-3, 8 and 15-18, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hodsdon et al. (U. S. Pat. -3,989,909).

Regarding claims 1, 8 and 15, Hodsdon et al. disclose a speaker enclosure system, comprising: a backbox (Fig. 1) having an interior bounded by a peripheral edge; a grill (14)

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having a crimping edge being crimped about the peripheral edge; a speaker (31) affixed to an interior surface of the grille; and a sound baffle sheet (25) extending across the interior surface of the grille between the peripheral edge and the speaker, wherein the grille rests upon and extending across the peripheral edge whereby the entirety of the backbox rests to one side of the interior surface of the grille as claimed.

Regarding claims 2-3, Hodsdon et al. further disclose the speaker enclosure system, wherein the grill is releasable attached to the backbox (Fig. 6) as claimed.

Regarding claims 16-18 and 22, Hodsdon et al. further disclose the speaker enclosure system, wherein the baffle sheets have a speaker opening (10) as claimed.

Regarding claim 20, Hodsdon et al. further disclose the speaker enclosure system, wherein the backbox has an electrical supply (Fig. 1) as claimed.

Regarding claim 21, Hodsdon et al. further disclose the speaker enclosure system, wherein the crimping edge is also crimped about the sound baffle as claimed (Fig. 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-6, 9-11 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hodsdon et al. (U. S. Pat. -3,989,909).

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Regarding claim 4 and 9, Hodsdon et al. do not clearly teach that the backbox is molded as claimed. Since provided a molded plastic or form enclosure for a speaker system is very well known in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a molded backbox for the speaker enclosure system as an alternate choice, in order to simplify the manufacturing processing and also make the system more durable.

Regarding claims 5-6 and 10, Hodsdon et al. do not clearly teach that the molded backbox is reinforced by fiberglass as claimed. Since providing reinforcement material for a molded plastic housing is very well know in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide any desirable reinforcement material, such as a fiberglass mesh for the enclosure or backbox as an alternate choice, in order to make the enclosure more durable, especially under some hazardous environment, such as under high temperature environment.

Regarding claims 11 and 23-25, Hodsdon et al. do not clearly teach that the molded backbox comprises material and detailed configuration as claimed. Since providing a thermal resistant material for a desirable enclosure or housing is very well know in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide any suitable thermal resistant material, such as metal or some thermal resistant plastic for the enclosure or backbox as an alternate choice, in order to make the system fully functioning and more durable under high temperature environment.

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Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Suhan Ni** whose telephone number is (703)-308-9322, and the number for fax machine is (703)-305-9508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm. If it is necessary, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached at (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Suhan Ni
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2643
USPTO


SUHAN NI
PATENT EXAMINER

January 19, 2004